

Oakwood Cemetery Wichert, Illinois

In June of 1914, the congregation of the First Reformed Church of Wichert obtained three acres of land to be used for a church cemetery. Two years later, in 1916, the members of the church decided they would be the “owners and overseers” of the cemetery, which they named the Oakwood Cemetery. Trustees appointed by the church mapped and sold lots and provided for the maintenance of the cemetery grounds.

Maintaining the cemetery grounds has been problematic from the beginning because the soil is sandy loam. Farms in the area have sandy loam soil as well; however, the farmers have set up elaborate irrigation systems to water their crops.



The only cemetery “irrigation system” is an old-fashioned hand pump (left) which visitors prime with water saved in a collection bucket so they can pump fresh water into an empty bucket to carry to the grave sites. The photos on these pages display the “patch-work” effect created when grass is watered on some plots and not on others. In addition, some family members lay sod to supplement natural grass.

Walking through the cemetery is like taking a step back through time. Names and dates engraved on the headstones bear witness to the fact Wichert once was a small community in which people were related in one way or another. They were grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins, friends, and long-ago classmates. Everyone worshipped at the church.





Directions for reaching Oakwood Cemetery are provided in a separate document. Numbers on the Google map above correspond to the numbers listed below to designate the location of individual family gravesites. Names, relationships, and gravesite locations for all Romein/DeMik family members are documented in the PARENTS, SIBLINGS, & THEIR FAMILIES folder.

Three generations of the Romein and DeMik families are buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

FIRST GENERATION

- Teunis & Sadie Romein (Section 1)
- William & Clara DeMik (Section 1)

SECOND GENERATION

- Peter & Mary Romein (Section 1)
- Harry & Elizabeth Romein (Section 1)
- Martin & Annie Romein (Section 1)
- Joseph Romein (Section 1)
- Josephine & Richard DeYoung (Section 1)
- John & Sophia DeMik/Evelyn Lena DeMik (Section 1)
- Julius & Nellie DeMik (Section 1)

THIRD GENERATION

- Johanna Romein (Section 1)
- Joe Richard & Lola DeYoung (Section 1)
- Ted DeYoung (Section 1)
- Rose & Morris DeYoung (Section 1)
- Clara & John Smalley (Section 1)
- Evelyn DeMik (Section 1)
- Marion Peter & Dolores Romein (Section 2)
- Elmer Romein - Elmer's wife Dorothy is living (Section 2)
- Sadie & Frank Bretveld (Section 3)
- Clara & Fred Vander Meer (Section 4)



